

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A system for treating a vascular condition, the system comprising:

a hollow guidewire;

a core wire inserted through the hollow guidewire, the core wire including a tapered undulating section including a plurality of undulations along an axial portion of the core wire, wherein an amplitude of each consecutive undulation varies with axial distance from a proximal end of the core wire, the plurality of undulations frictionally contacting an inner surface of the hollow guidewire when disposed therein; and

an embolic containment device coupled between a distal end of the hollow guidewire and a distal end of the core wire.

Claim 2-3 (canceled):

Claim 4 (previously presented): The system of claim 1 wherein the amplitude of each consecutive undulation increases linearly with distance from the proximal end of the core wire.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The system of claim 1 wherein the amplitude of each consecutive undulation decreases linearly with distance from the proximal end of the core wire.

Claim 6 (original): The system of claim 1 wherein the tapered undulating section provides greater friction when the core wire axially translates between a proximal position and a distal position than when the core wire axially translates between the distal position and the proximal position.

Claim 7 (original): The system of claim 1 wherein the tapered undulating section provides lesser friction when the core wire axially translates between a proximal position and a distal position than when the core wire axially translates between the distal position and the proximal position.

Claim 8 (original): The system of claim 1 wherein the tapered undulating section of the core wire comprises a crimped set of bends formed in the core wire.

Claim 9 (original): The system of claim 1 wherein the embolic containment device comprises an embolic filter.

Claim 10 (original): The system of claim 9 wherein the embolic filter includes a braided wire mesh, and wherein at least a portion of the braided wire mesh is coated with an elastomeric material.

Claim 11 (original): The system of claim 1 wherein the embolic containment device is actuated to an expanded configuration when the core wire is translated proximally relative to the hollow guidewire.

Claim 12 (original): The system of claim 1 wherein the embolic containment device is actuated to a contracted configuration when the core wire is translated distally relative to the hollow guidewire.

Claim 13 (original): The system of claim 1 wherein the embolic containment device comprises an occluder.

Claim 14 (original): The system of claim 13 wherein the occluder blocks fluid flow through a body vessel when the occluder is actuated, the occluder being actuated by an axial translation of the core wire within the hollow guidewire.

Claim 15 (original): The system of claim 1 further comprising:
a coating disposed on at least a portion of the core wire, wherein the coating reduces friction between the coated portions of the core wire and an inner surface of the hollow guidewire.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A method of treating a vascular condition, the method comprising:

providing a core wire inserted through a hollow guidewire, the core wire including a tapered undulating section including a plurality of undulations along an axial portion of the core wire, wherein an amplitude of each consecutive undulation varies with axial distance from a proximal end of the core wire, the plurality of undulations frictionally contacting an inner surface of the hollow guidewire when disposed therein;

providing an embolic containment device coupled between a distal end of the hollow guidewire and a distal end of the core wire;

axially translating the core wire in a first direction relative to the hollow guidewire to expand the embolic containment device; and

axially translating the core wire in a second direction relative to the hollow guidewire to contract the embolic containment device.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 16 further comprising:
capturing embolic material when the embolic containment device is expanded.

Claim 18 (canceled):

Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 16, wherein the embolic containment device includes one of an embolic filter and an occluder.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A guidewire-based embolic filter containment system comprising:

a hollow guidewire;

a core wire slidably inserted through the hollow guidewire, the core wire including frictional control means disposed within the hollow guidewire ~~for providing a different amount of friction based on a translational direction such that axial movement~~ of the core wire within the hollow guidewire is easier in a first direction than in a second, opposite direction; and

an embolic filter containment device coupled between a distal end of the hollow guidewire and a distal end of the core wire.

Claim 21 (new): The guidewire-based embolic containment system of claim 20 wherein the axial movement of the core wire within the hollow guidewire is easier in a distal direction than in a proximal direction.

Claim 22 (new): The guidewire-based embolic containment system of claim 20 wherein the embolic containment device comprises an embolic filter.